up their textile units meeting international environmental and social standards, a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) based Scheme known as the "Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP)" has been introduced in August, 2005.

(v) In 2004-05 Budget, the entire textile sector, except for man-made fibre and filament yarn was provided optional exemption from excise duty. In 2005-06 Budget, Central Value-aided Tax (CENVAT) on Polyester Filament Yarn has been reduced from 24% to 16%. These modifications in fiscal levies aim at attracting more investments for modernization of textile sector.

(vi) To facilitate import of state of the art machinery to make our products internationally competitive in post quota regime, in 2005-06 Budget, the customs duty on textile machinery has been brought down to 10% except 23 machinery appearing in List 49 which attracts Basic Customs Duty (BCD) of 15%. The concessional duty of 5% continues to be at 5% on most of the machinery items.

(vii) Government has launched the Debt Restructuring Scheme we*./ Sept., 2003 with the principal objective to permit banks to lend to the textile sector at 8-9% rate of interest.

(viii) In order to cater to the growing skilled manpower requirements at shop floor level, Government is providing assistance for strengthening existing and opening new Apparel Training and Design Centres (ATDCs).

(ix) Government has allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment in the textile sector under automatic route.

(x) Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from SSI sector so that large scale investments may be encouraged in these sectors.

(xi) National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has been set up to provide the leadership role in sensitizing the Industry to the concept of value addition by inducting trained professionals to manage the industry. This has resulted in an increased demand for trained professionals in various sectors servicing the industry.

Decline in export of textiles

†1007. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge decline has taken place in the export of textile industry of the country due to various reasons;

(b) if so, the fact in this regard and what is Government's reaction to these facts;

(c) whether several trade organizations of textile industry have also made Government aware of the problems arisen before the textile industry; and

(d) if so, what steps have so far been taken by Government to solve these problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) As per provisional export data of the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Kolkata, India's textiles exports have declined over 14% in US $ terms during the first quarter of current year over corresponding period of previous year.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) to (d) The Government is seized of submissions of textiles and clothing export promotion councils and other associations, that the exports of textiles have been affected recently due to the appreciation in the value of the Indian rupee *vis-a-vis* US dollar. The strengthen the textiles industry, the Government has taken certain measures, which include increase in Duty Entitlement Pass Book and Duty Drawback rates, exemption from service tax on select services, reduction in interest rates of pre-shipment and post-shipment credit and faster clearance of arrears of terminal excise duties and Central Sales Tax.

Subsidy to MSCCGMF

1008. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra has asked for subsidy to Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation Ltd. (MSCCGMF) for maintaining Minimum Support Price (MSP) to cotton growers during the year 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when Government proposes to release the subsidy to the Federation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation Ltd. (MSCCGMF) has not been nominated by the Government of India a nodal agency to procure cotton under MSP. Therefore, the question of reimbursement of losses to the Maharashtra Federation does not arise.

Integrated Textile Park at Madurai

1009. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up an Integrated Textile Park at Madurai; and

(b) if so/the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Madurai Integrated Textile Park, located at Vadipatti near Madurai, Tamil Nadu, has been sanctioned under the Scheme for Integrated Textiles Park (SITP). Estimated project cost is Rs. 87.30 Crore, out of which Rs. 34.92 Crore will be provided as assistance under the SITP. The park will have facilities for 'processing', 'weaving' and 'garmenting'. Estimated investment in the park is Rs. 410 Crore. The park is expected to create employment opportunities for 7000 persons (direct/indirect).

12.00 Noon

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

(I) Report and Accounts (2006-07) of BEL, Bangalore and related papers

(II) Report and Accounts (2006-07) of BEML, Bangalore and related papers

(III) Annual Administration Reports (2006-07) of the Cantonment Boards

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): Sir, I lay on the Table: